

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A face information transmission system,
comprising:

image acquisition means to acquire an image of the
5 face of a subject;

first generation means to generate first image
information relating to said subject and including the
positions of characteristic points of said face, based
on the acquired image;

10 second generation means to generate second image
information according to the facial expression of the
face of said subject based on the generated first
image information; and,

transmission means to transmit the generated second
15 image information to a prescribed communication
terminal.

2. The face information transmission system
according to Claim 1, further comprising:

utterance acquisition means to acquire utterances
20 issued by said subject; and

image judgment means to judge whether or not said
first image information satisfies prescribed
conditions,

wherein, when said image judgment means judges that said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said first image information, and when said image judgment means judges that said first image information does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said utterances.

3. The face information transmission system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

phoneme identification means to identify phonemes corresponding to an utterance acquired by said utterance acquisition means; and

phoneme judgment means to judge whether an identified phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said phoneme, and when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image

information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said first image information.

4. The face information transmission system according to Claim 3, wherein, when neither said first image information nor said phoneme satisfies the respective prescribed conditions and said utterance cannot be acquired, said second generation means employs image information determined in advance as said second image information.

5. The face information transmission system according to Claim 1, wherein said first image information comprises information to identify the distribution of said characteristic points in the face of said subject.

6. The face information transmission system according to Claim 1, wherein said image acquisition means acquires images of said face along a time series, and said first generation means generates said first image information including displacements in the positions of said characteristic points along a time series based on the acquired images.

7. The face information transmission system according to Claim 6, wherein said first image information includes information to identify the

movement of said characteristic points relative to the face of said subject.